



Henry County, Virginia

E-Newsletter from the official website of Henry County, VA

Henry County Monthly Newsletter

February 2008

Welcome to our new Henry County E-Newsletter! We are excited about all the new possibilities with our new website, www.henrycountyva.gov, and we hope that you will enjoy this effort to communicate with our citizens. If you have questions or comments, please call Tim Hall at (276) 634-4605 or email him at thall@co.henry.va.us. Thanks!

RTI International Metals chooses Patriot Centre for \$100 million project

Governor Timothy M. Kaine announced January 8 that RTI International Metals, Inc., a leading U.S. producer of titanium mill products and fabricated metal components for the global market, will invest \$100 million to open a manufacturing facility in the Patriot Centre, an industrial park jointly developed by the city of Martinsville and Henry County. The company will manufacture titanium for the aerospace industry, creating 150 new jobs.

"This project is exceptional for Martinsville-Henry County," said Governor Kaine. "RTI International Metals needed an existing building to start operations as quickly as possible and the new Patriot Centre Shell Building met all the company's needs. The region will greatly benefit from 150 employment opportunities and having this global company as a corporate citizen."

Headquartered in Niles, Ohio, through its various subsidiaries, RTI International Metals manufactures and distributes titanium and specialty mill products, extruded shapes, formed parts and engineered systems for aerospace, industrial, defense, energy, chemical, and consumer applications for customers around the world.

Dawne Hickton, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, RTI International Metals, said, "We are very pleased to be partnering with the state of Virginia, Henry County and the City of Martinsville in the construction of this new facility. The incentive package that Virginia offered included an already constructed building and the proximity of cost-effective utilities were instrumental in our choosing the site in the Patriot Centre. The support from Governor Kaine and all of the local officials is appreciated and we're pleased to grow RTI in Virginia."

The Virginia Economic Development Partnership worked with the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation to secure the project for Virginia. Governor Kaine approved \$633,168 from the Governor's Opportunity Fund to assist Martinsville-Henry County with the project. The Virginia Tobacco and Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission approved \$1,325,972 in Tobacco Region Opportunity Funds to support the project. The Virginia Department of Business Assistance will provide training assistance through the Virginia Jobs Investment Program.

"Henry County is absolutely thrilled that RTI International Metals has chosen to locate here," said Board of Supervisors Chairman H.G. Vaughn. "We think this is a perfect marriage between company and community. The citizens of Martinsville and Henry County will embrace RTI, and we look forward to a long history of success."

Tatum Appointed to Prestigious National Council

Matt Tatum, Henry County's EMS Coordinator with our Department of Public Safety, was recently appointed to a prestigious national advisory council for the federal Department of Transportation.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) announced Matt's appointment, along with 24 other industry leaders from across the country, to the newly-established National Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council (NEMSAC). The purpose of NEMSAC is to provide advice and counsel to the Department of Transportation on national Emergency Medical Services (EMS) initiatives, while offering a forum for the non-Federal deliberation of national EMS issues.

Matt is one of just two appointees from the Commonwealth of Virginia, and among the other appointees are representatives from Maine, Minnesota, Washington, Kentucky, Oklahoma, California, Idaho, North Carolina, Nevada, Florida, New York, Oregon, Kansas, and Massachusetts.

"We are excited that Matt was appointed to this new initiative," said Dale Wagoner, Director of Public Safety. "It speaks well of Matt's abilities, and it speaks well of our department as a whole."

Winter Smith River Clean-up Planned

Gateway Streetscape Foundation will hold their third annual winter Smith River Clean-up on Saturday, February 9, 2008, from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Volunteers are asked to gather at the Fisher Farm Park which is located on Leisure Trail in Ridgeway. Please note this is a new location.

This winter clean-up will concentrate on removing debris and trash from the banks of the Smith River and the feeder streams, but we encourage all area residents to pick up trash along the roadways for the week leading up to the February 9th event. Last winter's clean-up yielded 8.43 tons of trash and debris!

People of all ages and abilities are encouraged to help protect our area's most beautiful and valuable natural resource, the Smith River. This is a perfect opportunity for school groups, churches, civic organizations and others to give a little of their time to make a big difference in our community! Volunteers will receive a gift for participating. In addition, there will be hot chocolate and a marshmallow roast for all volunteers following the river clean-up.

The Smith River contributes immeasurably to the quality of life in Martinsville and Henry County. Outdoorsmen enjoy the beauty and fishing offered by the Smith River, and it will soon be a major recreational destination. Pollution of our water source endangers the health of our community and the wildlife that inhabits the river area. We can each do our part to preserve the Smith River by reducing pollution in and around the river year-round and by participating in this winter clean-up.

Gateway will provide trash bags, gloves, and safety vests. So, gather your family and friends and come join the effort to make our community a cleaner, healthier place to live. In the event of inclement weather (snow or ice), the event will be rescheduled for February 16 at the same time.

For pre-registration, contact our office at 634-4674 or 634-4622. You may also register the day of the event.

Valentines For Vets Program Available

You can brighten a veterans day by participating in the Valentines for Veterans Program. Henry County Parks and Recreation is a participant in this national program which is held in conjunction with National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week.

People wishing to participate may make cards and turn them in to our office by Thursday, February 7. We will deliver the cards to the Veterans Hospital in Salem, VA in time for Valentines Day. Please contact our Parks & Recreation Department at 634-4640 if you have any questions.

What is an Enterprise Zone and what does having one mean?

Henry County and the City of Martinsville have two joint Enterprise Zones, #36 designated in 1996 and #54 which was designated in 2001. Both zones have a twenty-year life span expiring in 2015 and 2020 respectively.

Zone #36 contains a total of 3,840 acres, its maximum allotted acreage. The County's portion mainly encompasses what used to be the heavily industrialized areas--Bassett, Stanleytown, Fieldale, DuPont Road, Rives Road, the Fontaine Industrial Park, Martinsville Industrial Park, Martinsville Speedway, and an area just to the south of the U.S. 58 By-pass and U.S. 220 South Business. Zone #36 also has a sub-zone and includes the Patriot Centre at Beaver Creek and the North Bowles Industrial Park.

The County's segment of Zone #54 lies along VC Drive and a portion of Stultz Road and encompasses several properties, including former trucking firms, Roy Stone Transfer and Virginia Carolina Trucking, as well as D & D Furniture, Inc. and several vacant properties. Zone #54 has no sub-zone and currently totals only 124.73 acres; however, the County and the City are in the process of a boundary amendment which will allow expansion to 3,000+ acres. The new boundary will be comprised of the Virginia Avenue corridor from the City limits to Bassett Forks, areas at or near the intersection of U.S. 220/58 By-pass and Joseph Martin Highway, several tracts along Greensboro Road, 1,200+ acres on Barrows Mill Road and the 600+ acres fronting on both sides of Reservoir Road which the County recently purchased.

There are certain advantages to properties and businesses being located within Enterprise Zones. For example, when certain minimum investments are made for improvements and/or new construction or there is permanent full time job creation, then those businesses are eligible to apply for certain grants and incentives which can range from the waiver of fees such as building permits and utility connections to machinery and tools and real property grants. Some of the funding is available through the state, but Henry County offers its own incentive package through the Industrial Development Authority. These grants and incentives can play a vital role when a business or industry is trying to start up or simply decide on the amount of investment they wish to make.

For more information or inquiries pertaining to the Enterprise Zone Program, you may contact Wade Nester at 634-2570. You may also call the Martinsville-Henry County EDC at 403-5940 or visit The Commonwealth of Virginia's website at <http://dhcd.virginia.gov/>.

Martinsville-Henry County EDC Wins National Award

Expansion Solutions Magazine has awarded the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation with a 2007 Award of Excellence in Food Processing. This is one of only five awards given to localities nationwide and is given to those "who have made exceptional progress in economic development by successfully recruiting and retaining businesses" as the magazine describes.

The Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation is pleased to have received this award and is continuing to pursue the food processing industry. "We possess the right ingredients for food processing and this award helps us target that market with more authority," said Mark Heath, President/CEO of the EDC.

Visit <http://www.expansionsolutionsmagazine.com/> to view the article regarding this award in its entirety.

Dates to Remember

Thursday, February 14 - Valentine's Day

Monday, February 18 - President's Day (County offices open)

Monday, February 18 - PSA Board of Directors' Meeting, 6 p.m. County Administration building, 4th Floor

Tuesday, February 26 - Board of Supervisors' Monthly Meeting, 3 p.m., County Administration Building, 1st floor.

Please check the calendar at www.henrycountyva.gov for a complete list of events for February.

<http://henrycounty.herdesign.com>.

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